

National Honor Society Hosts Father Ritter



Father Bruce Ritter addresses student body.

by Hope Parisi

Since the induction of its new members in September, the Bishop Ford Chapter of the National Honor Society has conducted a Thanksgiving mass collection to sponsor the "Under 21" building in Times Square. They have also laid definite plans for an Orphan's Christmas Party and a Scholarship Dance.

During the mass of November 21, over \$600 was collected by the students of the Ford community. Father Bruce Ritter, founder and director of this independent refuge for young homeless runaways, prostitutes and drug addicts, was present to address the student body. In his talk, Father enlightened his audience as to the serious problems homeless teens face today. He explained how his own private apartment evolved into an established, four-story shelter. Father captured the audience to the extent that he received a standing ovation.

On December 19, the National Honor Society sponsors

an Orphan's Christmas Party at which 50 children from Family Reception Center are expected. The festivities of the day include music, refreshments, games, a puppet show, and, best of all, a visit from Santa and his elves from the North Pole. PIC and the N.B.H.S. supply gift donations, while the Student Council takes charge of refreshments. However, all students are invited to participate.

On January 12, the society conducts a Sock Hop as the second annual scholarship dance. Last year, \$800 was contributed to the tuition of a needy Bishop Ford student who might otherwise have transferred to public school. It is hoped that this year's dance will prove as successful, with tickets priced at \$2.00 for singles and \$3.50 for couples. Dressing for the occasion is encouraged.

The National Honor Society continues tutoring and 60 tutors are available to help. The society welcomes any suggestions for future projects.

Graffiti Artists Deck Halls

The incidence of graffiti at Ford has escalated as never before. The most active "expressionists" sign themselves "Sorcerer" or "Rap." Their marks have defaced practically every area of Ford, from the garage doors outside to the school walls inside.

The identity of these students remains completely unknown. "When they do get caught," says Mr. Rocco Grella, Dean of Students, "they will be dealt with appropriately." The student manual states that up to six demerits may be assigned for each offense. But due to the increase in graffiti, Brother Alphonsus has asked the Student Behavior Committee to revise the present regulations dealing with this matter. The new regulation provides for up to 25 demerits and requires that the culprits reimburse the school for the expense of correcting the damage.

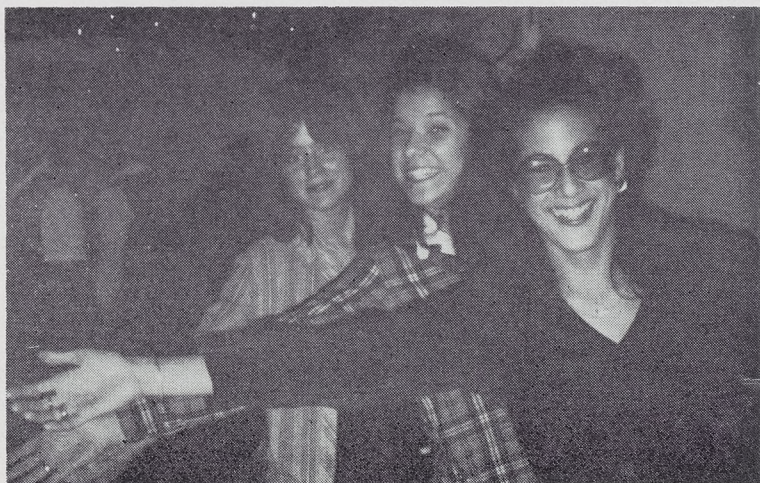
This could add up to quite a sum for "Sorcerer" or "Rap." They and others have

cost Ford over \$500. When someone marks property with spray paint, often the area must be steamblasted. This requires hired professionals.

The problem has not shown signs of improvement since its start in the summer. "We need the help of the students," says Mr. Grella, "to find out who is doing this to our school." If anyone has information, it is requested that

he or she report it to the dean of students office somehow, either directly or anonymously. Confidentiality will be maintained.

BULLETIN: As this article went to press the **High-point** Staff learned that "Sorcerer" and "Rap" have been identified and that appropriate corrective action is in progress.



"Look out, Rockettes!"

Outsiders Shatter Disco Dance

by Brian Picardi

On November 16, a Friday evening, the Bishop Ford disco dance was shattered by a number of disturbances. The dance, originally scheduled to end at 12:00 p.m., was discontinued at 10:30 p.m.

There were rumors of two students who were arrested in front of the school for smoking marijuana. Someone had a knife or sharp blade in his possession and was cutting students with it. Further on down the line, Miss Denise Miller was attacked and physically injured at the dance.

To get a clearer picture of exactly what happened at the dance, I interviewed Mr. Michael Mushalla, Head of the Dance Committee and Music Department, and also Mr. Rocco Grella, Dean of Students.

When asked why the social was brought to an early con-

clusion, Mr. Mushalla replied, "I felt for the safety and health of everyone there. The best thing to do would have been to close the dance at that time."

When asked about the alleged knife, Mr. Mushalla answered that, "There were some people being cut by what we believed to be a razor blade. We did try to find the person who had the object, but we could not find him." The police were then contacted and, shortly after their arrival, they recommended that the dance be closed.

I next asked Mr. Grella what would be done to the students involved. He said, "Supposedly, none of our students was involved." He added that it was mostly other students from the neighborhood and other schools.

Mr. Grella then resolved, "That's where most of the trouble develops (letting in outside students). If you don't

let them in, the trouble develops outside the building."

One way to avoid this problem might be to have dances for just the Ford students, or for just one year in particular. An example of this was the Senior Halloween Dance.

Another rather unpopular solution is to have dances directly after school or after a basketball game. Mr. Grella interjected, "It's silly and archaic, and from an administrative standpoint, it's the easiest kind of dance to control."

Furthermore, he suggests the use of policemen instead of chaperones at an evening dance: "Policemen have more control."

Be that as it may, both Mr. Grella and Mr. Mushalla agree that a new policy will be set for future socials and, until then, all dances have been cancelled.

HIGH POINT

Volume 4, Number 2

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL November-December, 1979

California, Europe Trips Planned

by Edward Smith
and Thomas Cappiello

Mr. DiPleco of the Business Department has organized a trip to Los Angeles, California, which will take place during the February recess (15th to 22nd) at a cost of \$425. per person, including round trip fare, hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn in Chinatown, a day trip to Disneyland, a Universal Studios Tour and a ticket to a live t.v. show.

A \$250. deposit was due by

December 14th, after which date the entire cost of the trip rose to \$539. per person.

Bishop Ford, in conjunction with Holy Trinity in Hicksville, Mercy High in Riverhead (New Jersey) and Catherine McCauley, is sponsoring a trip to England, France and Switzerland from April 2 to 10, 1980. The cost of the trip is \$825, which includes round-trip airplane fare, transportation within Europe, hotel accommodations,

breakfast and dinner during the entire nine-day, eight-night trip, and all taxes and tips.

The trip includes a tour of London, a tour of the Shakespeare Country, a chance to shop in London, a guided tour of Paris, a tour of the Louvre, and a guided tour of Switzerland's Alpine Region.

Anyone wishing further information and/or an application should see the Senior Activities Coordinator, Sister Peggy McHugh, immediately.

N. B. H. S. Spreads Goodwill

by Hope Parisi

From November 5 to November 21, the National Business Honor Society conducted a food drive to benefit many needy Brooklyn families. Approximately 13 boxes or \$200 worth of canned goods were collected.

During these three weeks, each society member petitioned a group of homerooms for donations. A box in the

main lobby facilitated contributions. The goods were later delivered to the Little Sisters of the Poor for distribution in the neighborhood.

The members of the society contributed personally, as did our generous secretaries. \$36 was added to the gift of food. The members also will have co-conducted the Toy Drive for the Orphan's Christmas Party along with Ford's PIC-ers.

New Tappers Underfoot

by Patty Miller

The newest activity at Ford is the Tap Dancing Club which meets every Monday from 3:10 to 4:10 in the auditorium and is moderated and instructed by our Librarian, Mr. John Bate.

The goal of the club is to foster a knowledge of the dance as an art form, and new members are invited to attend sessions.

New "tappers" include Marcia Thomas, who re-

marked, "I really like the dance class. It's not easy, but it's worth all the work." Kay Evans feels, "The club is entertaining and fun. We really learn a lot about tap." Faye Purpura labeled the club "a unique experience." Other members are Raudline Etienne, Miracle VanCooten, Sharon Healy, Pascale Bastien, Julie Walker, Cheryl Cooper, Caroline Testaverde, Ingrid Craig and Colette Olstead.



Merry Christmas!

A Letter...

To the Editor:

Since the admission of girls to Bishop Ford two years ago, the female population has continually protested the requirements of the dress code, receiving very mixed reactions from the administration.

Last year and this, the senior girls have requested and been granted new privileges, altering their dress code. Why, then, cannot the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors have even slight changes made for them?

As members of the junior class, we feel that the female part of the Ford community is being done a great injustice in this matter. We ask that all underclassmen be permitted one privilege: that of being able to wear **dark blue corduroys** in place of the uniform pants now required. The boys received the option of corduroys last year; the girls should be allowed it also.

There are many advantages to corduroy pants:

1. Availability—they can be bought at neighborhood stores at various prices.
2. Warmth—cotton corduroy gives much more insulation in the winter than does polyester.
3. Pockets—it is impossible to live without them, especially since the new blouses are pocketless!

We are not asking for a major change in the code. We are asking to be able to share in a "privilege" which over one-half of the student body already enjoys. Why does this change seem so drastic to some?

We urge the Student Council to review this matter and make a favorable recommendation to the administration. Why must the female underclassmen suffer from the inaction (and misunderstanding) of just a few?

Sincerely,

Marie Cassidy
Sharon Healy
Amy Mattison
Julia Piotrowski
Jeanne Mannino
Janice Medina

We Need Nukes, Dams, and Coal

by Vincent Cohan

During the 1950s the United States was under the impression that it had enough crude oil to last for many, many years. At the same time a number of Arab countries began to realize that they possessed tremendous supplies of oil. America's assumptions, combined with Arab discoveries, led to our present oil shortage.

As it became unexpectedly difficult for domestic oil to be found and brought to the surface, the U.S. turned to the then cheap foreign oil. This developed into a pattern which eventually led to today's dependence on oil imports. We presently import well over 40% of our total oil consumption.

Recent events have proven to us that the present situation is intolerable. As long as we have to depend on foreign oil, we can expect to be pressured and, in time, controlled by two-bit foreign powers and organizations such as OPEC. It has become obvious that alternative methods of producing energy must be pursued. Conservation is necessary and helpful, but it is **not** a solution.

Our country is being stagnated as far as the pursuit of alternate energy means is concerned. Environmentalist groups are strangling any efforts that are being made to end this country's dependence on foreign oil. Interest groups are demanding the abolition of nuclear power, they are opposing the building of dams for hydroelectric power, and they are firmly against the extensive use of coal, which is a natural resource that this country has in abundance. In addition, a

recent court action barred exploratory drilling off the New England coast, where there is believed to be a large supply of crude oil. This is insane! We know our oil is running out, yet the same "patriots" who say, "to hell with Iran's oil," are not allowing us to free ourselves from its bind upon us. If you don't pursue hydro-electric power, or nuclear power, or the use of coal, what is left?

This is when people shout "Solar Power"—the environmentalist's dream. The anti-nuclear demonstrators, along with the anti-coal, anti-dam, and anti-oil people are, no doubt, envisioning a solar-powered world: little solar-powered cars zipping through solar-powered cities filled with solar-powered homes, taking trips in solar-powered airplanes, snubbing their noses at the poor little Arabs who sit on billions of barrels of obsolete oil. This is a beautiful dream. However, it is just that, a dream. Many years from now a solar-powered world may be possible. Yet, at this time, or even in the next decade, it seems very unlikely that solar technology will be advanced enough even to heat the common home without a conventional back-up system. To think it could soon be used to power industries is simply absurd.

The solution, then, is not solar power alone. It is most definitely not an abolition of nuclear power or the wasting of our coal. We must continue to take advantage of nuclear power plants. We must use our available resources. We must make dramatic reductions in the amount of oil we import. This is the only way America can ever truly be an independent country once again.

Let's Keep CHRIST in CHRISTMAS

Beneath an avalanche of holiday commercialism, the true meaning of Christmas lies smothered. Layer upon layer of expensive gift paper, ribbons and glitter wrap its significance into a bundle of meaninglessness. All religious and cultural interpretations of the important celebration tend to be lost.

One holiday season and a billion dollars worth of retail sales later, American society will have learned nothing about Christmas, except that it is very expensive. None of the expensive tinsel and toys will have contributed toward assuag-

ing our society's myriad social injustices; instead, our vital energy resources will have been consumed and wasted to a staggering degree once more.

Isn't it time to get our priorities straight? The Christmas experience must be placed back into its proper perspective, one of faith and love and concern for our brothers and sisters. Only after this is done will our holiday celebrations hold any significant meaning at all.

The Sound of Silence

by Barbara Burke

We communicate through words, sometimes spoken, sometimes written, but always heard. I speak, you speak, and together we learn of each other. We, through communication, learn to honor and respect the ideas, feelings and opinions of others. By communicating, no matter what the media may be, we grow as human beings, as Christians.

When words are suppressed for any reason, in any form, this, too, is a communication. This signals to us that maybe we should choose where, when and how to communicate our ideas and feelings. Suppression leads to dishonesty. Dishonesty is a madness which should not and need not be.

We all walk the same road through life, we all experience pleasure and pain. It is how we see that road that each of us must be permitted to express, for each of us sees that road differently.

Americans: Born to Run?

by Vincent Cohan

There is no doubt that this country's involvement in Vietnam has left many scars upon American society. Our pride has been hurt and our strength as an ally is now seriously questioned by many foreign powers. Perhaps the most serious and far-reaching effect of the war in Vietnam is the impression that it has left on the American teenager. Too young to fully grasp the meaning of what was occurring in Southeast Asia throughout the sixties, today's teenager can only see the aftermath. Today's teen hears the cries of the anti-war factions in this country claiming that the real heroes of the war were those who avoided the draft by fleeing the country for places like Canada. Today's teen sees how pointless and costly our half-baked involvement was. He sees statistics, lives lost, and, in the end, all for nothing.

Now the teenager asks himself, "Why should I go to defend my country?" The result is a very sad and dangerous situation. Today's young men and women seem to think now that any need for military action by this country will lead to "another Vietnam." They seem to believe that they have a choice whether or not to defend America. They want to survey the situation and decide if the war is "necessary enough" in their minds. If for any reason it doesn't appeal to them, they will dash off to Canada. In reality, they as Americans cannot choose. By refusing to defend this country and its interests, a deserter, or draft dodger, is disclaiming his American heritage and brandishing a new title: COWARD.

This country could not have survived (and would not even have been established) without its military capability. Our society, especially the younger element, has got to come to the realization that to desert this country in a time of need is a crime against all the principles it was founded upon. It is an insult to the millions of Americans who fought in previous wars and who gave their lives so we could live in a free land.

Another Letter...

To the Editor:

In our society today, people seem to succumb to certain attitudes about human nature which, perhaps only a few years ago, would have been totally unacceptable. One may think that this is a sign of a more refined way of thinking.

I believe this is a false theory in many cases. Take, for instance, the growing acceptance of homosexuality. People are, in greater numbers, being lead to believe that homosexuals are balanced, loving human beings. Of course, one may say, they have the right to love whom-ever they wish, but what kind of love is it that they are looking for? Certainly not platonic love. We all have people of our own sex whom we love—whether it be family or friends. However, homosexuals are primarily concerned with the sexual side of a relationship.

The greatest case against them is that what they are doing is unnatural. This is not just a silly norm we have

set in society. It is a basic ideal, an inevitable truth. Even the lowest of animals with the least intelligence is instinctively attracted to the opposite sex without fault. In plain truth, God made it that way. It is not only against Catholic doctrine, but also against every other world-wide religious doctrine.

As for the idea that homosexuals should have an occupation with any kind of influence, this can be threatening to another's personal attitudes, or perhaps, his well-being. After all, one's character centers largely upon one's own sexuality. Homosexuals may be harmful to others and themselves because of their strong desire for expression. Children and young adults are especially vulnerable to them.

Can anything good ever evolve from such warped concepts of life and love? Is true, honorable, spiritual love understood by these people? I, for one, think not.

—Christine Marie Babick

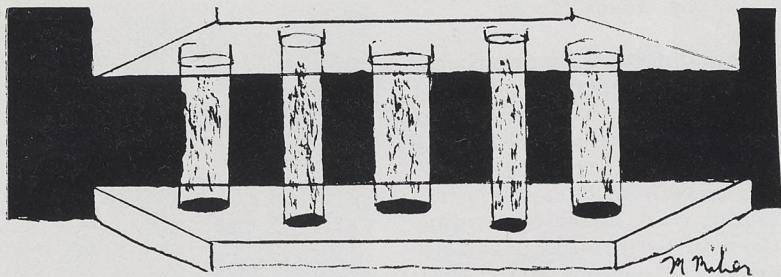
HIGHPOINT

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Enterprise Back in Flight



by Howard Quintero

"Space: the final frontier. The starship Enterprise's mission: to explore new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

These words were first heard thirteen years ago on television's most exciting adventure into space. Now, many years since the last episode, the movie version is ready to hit the big screen. **Star Trek, The Motion Picture**, is estimated to have cost more than forty million dollars, probably the most expensive film in history.

All the actors from the original cast are starring in the film. William Shatner is the newly-promoted Admiral Kirk of the Enterprise. Leonard Nimoy is the pointy-eared, half-vulcan Mr. Spock, who originally was not ast

in the film. DeForrest Kelley is Dr. Leonard McCoy, the head medical officer aboard ship.

An outstanding addition to the bridge of the ship is Ilia, played by the former Miss India, Dersis Khambata. Ilia is a mysterious, bald-headed, super intelligence from the planet Delta Four who serves as the ship's navigator.

Ten million dollars worth of special effects has been put into the movie which is guaranteed to surpass films such as **Star Wars** and **Close Encounters**. These effects take up about an hour of the total movie time. Among the most spectacular of the effects are the ones shown at the transporter stations where crew members are turned into energy, beamed to their destinations and then returned to their normal forms.

Star Trek—The Motion Picture: there is no comparison.

by Amy Mattison

The Bishop Ford yearbook, **Pagoda**, is something we are all quite proud of. Year after year, hard-working students team up with "Uncle Campy" and give us a great book. This year's co-editors, Danny Clinchot, Louis Diorio, and Julia Piotrowski, will surely prove to be no exception. All three are National Honor Society members and are participating in the tutoring program. Mr. Campanaro, **Pagoda** Moderator, has pointed out that in his five years with the yearbook, he has not worked with more dedicated or "easy to get along with" editors than this year's trio.

Danny Clinchot points out that the concept of a tri-editorship has worked well. He adds, "We all have different views on things, and that helps a lot." Danny is involved in activities in his community, as well as in school. Here, in addition to the **Pagoda**, Danny works on the Dance Committee, and on the Senior Activities Committee. At home he is involved in many parish activities. He also volunteers at Community Hospital.

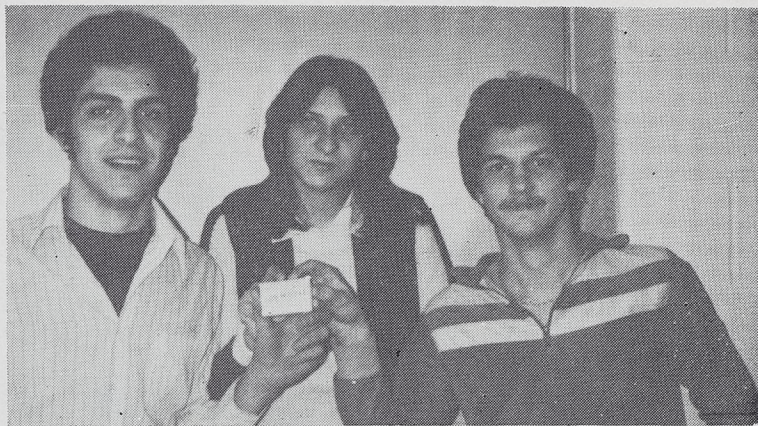
Julia Piotrowski, the first girl ever to edit **Pagoda**, is also the first junior to tackle

the task. In addition to these "firsts," Julia was also the first girl to be admitted into Ford. She has not made any firm decisions about her future. However, rumor has it that the University of Yukon (Arctic Circle) has been pursuing Julia, urging her to study pipeline engineering. When asked about this, Julia smiled, but declined to comment.

Louis Diorio takes great pride in the skillfully original, often insane **Pagoda** photographs. "Nothing escapes the roving eyes of our photographers," he proclaims from high atop a table in his office. Lou is a member of the Drama Club and the Dance

Committee, and is also Presidential Advisor to the Student Council. He is also an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

Lou, Julia and Danny have a great time while working on the yearbook. However, with the good times, often must come the sad times. They recently built a memorial tomb for their dead mascot, Pasquale T. Moth, who was loved by most. Despite this tragic loss, Lou, Julia and Danny and the whole staff are carrying on. Their devotion and hard work will surely result in a superb yearbook in 1980. Lou points out, "Pasquale would have wanted it that way."



Pagoda editors display fallen mascot's tomb.

Christmas Spirit Shared at Ford and Abroad

by Pascale Bastien

Christmas is truly a unique holiday. It is celebrated by people all over the world. Different cultures celebrate in different ways, but the essential meaning is the same: we celebrate Christ's birth.

In my homeland, Haiti, Christmas Eve is a very important part of the holidays. Haitians have a big feast called **Reveillon**, which means Reawakening. They eat and drink and sing carols. At 11:30 p.m. they go to midnight mass where they assist in a Nativity play. Later, they return to the **Reveillon** and celebrate the holy night until dawn. On Christmas Day, charity groups distribute clothes, food and toys to needy families.

New Year's Day is a doubly

important day in Haiti since it is also our Independence Day. Haitians exchange presents on New Year's Day. These presents are called **etrennes**.

"In Poland, Christmas is a very important holiday. Polish people are very religious. It is much more cheerful and less commercial than in the U.S." This comment was made by Eva Orlewski (308) who comes from Poland. During the holiday season Polish children can often be spotted around town singing Christmas carols. In Poland people do not eat meat on Christmas Eve. Instead, they eat different kinds of fish. The Christmas Day meal, however, is a feast of numerous delicacies, including meats.

Chona Fabian (105), whose

parents come from a small town in the Phillipines, was able to tell us about Christmas there. On Christmas Eve, Phillipinos put on a Nativity play of their own. After the play, the characters parade across town singing carols. On Christmas Day they have a special contest. The person who managed to grow the tallest Christmas tree receives a blue ribbon.

At Christmas time Ukrainians place a candle on their dinner table to represent the light of Christ. Christine Babick (301), who is of Ukrainian descent, told us of the Ukrainian children who go caroling from house to house, bringing food as presents.

Jennie Manna (406) told us all about the Italian Christmas. The Italians also put

on a Nativity play. The main foods of the season are baked goods. Gennie had this to say about the Italian Christmas, "I prefer the way they celebrate Christmas; they keep Christ in Christmas."

Marcia Thomas (408), who is from Jamaica, says that the main difference between Christmas here and in Jamaica is that Jamaicans celebrate the coming of Christ more than the coming of Santa Claus. They, too, put on a Nativity play and later receive cakes and puddings and send greetings to friends and relatives.

It is good to know that people from all countries can share in something as joyful as Christmas. And may your Christmas be a merry one, wherever you celebrate it.

by Maria Sallustio

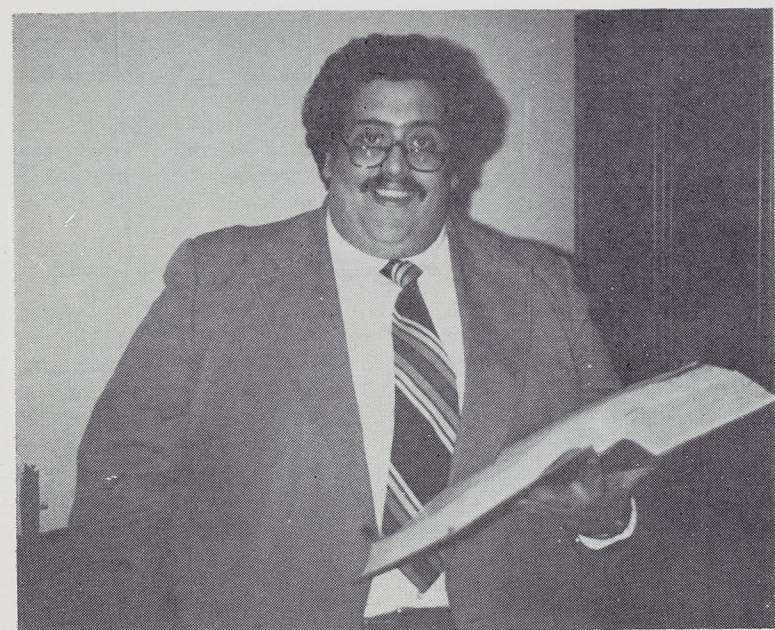
In our early years we all have aspirations toward exciting, fulfilling futures. Some dream of strolling through space, others seek a place in the Major Leagues. As a youngster, Joseph Mingrone wished to teach English, and he does so "dramatically" at Bishop Ford today.

Mr. Mingrone was born in Bedford-Stuyvesant and raised in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory High School where he became interested in dramatics. His first play was "Anything Goes," in which he played the role of a bishop aboard a cruise ship. Since then Mr. Mingrone has starred in 36 plays as a student at Saint Francis College and, more recently, as a member of its alumni drama club.

Most importantly, Mr. Mingrone is the Moderator of Ford's Drama Club. He feels that such a school activity is important because people who

are normally quiet often seek dramatic roles as an outlet. He would like to see the club perform two productions each year instead of just one. Last year Mr. Mingrone spent long and tedious hours nurturing Ford's production of "Anything Goes" which turned out to be quite a success and a gratifying experience. He hopes the same for this year's play, "The Boyfriend," a 1920's musical which takes place on the French Riviera.

Needless to say, Mr. Mingrone finds teaching very rewarding. "It's a two-way street," says he, meaning that he also learns from his students. He is proud to work with colleagues who, he feels, are extremely qualified and worthy, especially those of the English department. He is unmarried still. When asked how long he plans to remain a bachelor, he replied, "I will remain a bachelor until Mrs. Groneman leaves her husband."



Mr. Mingrone does some light reading.

Faculty Focus: Mr. Joseph Mingrone

Boring Holiday Ideas

by Christine Babick

Everyone anxiously awaits the leisure of the first real break of the school year—the Christmas holidays! These days may find you pooped if you've spent much time just preparing for them. Or, on the other hand, you may find yourself bored, stuck to the same dull routine of either sleeping or "hanging out" on these holidays. Revitalize yourself and enjoy a cozier Christmas this year. Here are some suggestions:

Go somewhere you have never been before with your favorite person, and savor the memory in the future.

Treat yourself to a gooey dessert loaded with calories—even if it takes you off a diet for a day or two!

Do something alone. Take a walk in the park in the chilly morning air, or go shopping by yourself to get a little something you've always wanted but never got around to buying.

Educate yourself. There's no better feeling than to visit an interesting historical site and come out of it knowing you've actually **learned** something. Good places to try are the Richmondtown Restoration, the Brooklyn section of the Grand Army Plaza Library, or the Cloisters.

Another favorite: **Warm up** to someone you love—to conserve fuel, of course.

Track Team Soars Over Competitors Sportlight: Pat Dugan

by Roger Menze

The Falcons swept the Brooklyn Boro Championships which were held on October 30 and 31 at Prospect Park.

The varsity set the tempo for the Falcons by beating Xaverian by 15 points and winning the title. The team was led by Pat Dugan (see this month's Sportlight) who came in second. Following him were Bill Kelly, who took third place with an outstanding performance, fourth-place Bob Powers, who felt he should have done better, ninth-place Roger Menze, who hadn't worked out sufficiently, tenth-place Joey Casertano, fifteenth place Tom Burns, and eighteenth-place John Shammas.

The j.v., keeping in stride with the varsity, won by 2 points over Xaverian. They

were led by Andy Dignam, who won the race easily. Other scorers were Danny O'Keefe, who out-kicked a man from Xaverian for second place, Bill Thurlow, a member of the j.v. basketball team who took sixth place, Peter DeCarlo who won seventh place, and Freddy Rich, who won eleventh place with his best race of the year.

The Freshmen also cashed in for Ford. The "A" team won by 4 points over second-place Xaverian. Robert Ventrice won the race for the team by 17 seconds. The "B" team won by 18 points over Xaverian. They were led by Danny Vira, who finished in first place.

The girls' team, coached by Ms. Fannon and Ms. Scavuzzo, came in fourth. Running for

the girls were Mary Kawas, Ann Marie Ditizio, Maura Mahon, Madeline Pagano, Clare Deodato, Ingrid Mihailovich and Maureen McLoughlin. In the freshman race were Esmeralda Darrio and Andrea Heathcode.

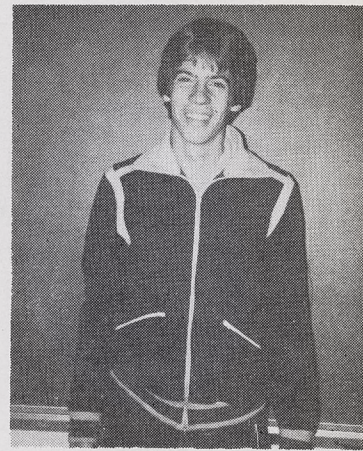
The City Championships were held on Saturday, November 10 at Van Cortlandt Park. The varsity placed third in a field of 23 teams. Scoring for the team were Pat Dugan, Bill Kelly, Bob Powers, Joey Casertano and Roger Menze.

The State Championships were held on Saturday, November 17 at Sarasota, New York. The varsity qualified for this meet by placing in the top three in the city. The team finished seventeenth out of 35 of the best teams in New York State.

by Roger Menze

This Christmas issue's Sportlight focuses on senior Pat Dugan. Pat is a member of the track team and is hoping for a track scholarship. He has proven to be a big asset to the track team by leading them in such meets as Marist College, Brooklyn Boro, City, and the State Championships. He is ranked within the top 30 fastest cross-country runners in New York State. Pat said he owes a lot of his good fortune to coaches Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Tom Dewey and fellow seniors Bob Powers, Joe Casertano and Peter DeCarlo.

Pat ranks 31st out of 265 with about a 90% average in his studies. When I asked him what he is looking for in a



Pat Dugan

college, he said, "I am looking for a college with good academic courses, a good track team and a lot of good looking girls!" He is hoping to get into Arizona State University.

Volleyball Team Celebrates Big Season

by Jorge Diaz

This was one of the best years for the girls' volleyball team. On November 10 and 11 the team competed in the St. Francis College Tournament and placed first, beating four

teams to make it to the finals. Outstanding performances were turned in by Laura Rivera, Cathy Sweeney, Barbara Blazewicz, Susan Rail, Karen Mulcahey and Faye Purpura.



Mrs. Groneman prepares the troops.

The girls finished their season on November 15 against St. Joseph's, achieving a 10-1 record for first place in the Brooklyn Championships. The Brooklyn playoffs were held here at Ford on November 17 when our team's winning streak was broken by Bishop Kearney. The girls, a bit overconfident, struggled to a three-game loss as their hope of being first in the Brooklyn-Queens Championship was crushed.

The members of the team are Laura Rivera (Captain), Jeannette Gutierrez (Co-captain), Barbara Blazewicz, Karen Mulcahey, Susan Rail, Faye Purpura, Mary Dopman, Cathy Sweeney, Gena Barons, Chona Fabian, Almura Allen, Mary McEvoy. The managers are Miracle Van Cotten and Julia Ferguson, and Mrs. Groneman is their coach.

Bowling Team Rolls On

by Maureen McLoughlin and Ingrid Mihailovich

Every Tuesday Ford's varsity and junior varsity bowling teams compete at the Greenpoint alley. The eight members of the varsity team are: Bruce Bowen, Anthony Cardile, Chris Fannon, Glen Huzinec, Anthony Mendez, Timothy Sheridan, Michael Nelson and Joe Williamson.

The junior varsity, which also has eight members, consists of Michael Andrews, Dennis Brown, Michael Flynn, Bruce Frank, Walter Kwiatkowski, Bart Pollack, Lori Ann Rencri and Michael Saluzzi.

Every Friday for an hour and a half the team practices

at the Park Circle Lanes. The team is in the Brooklyn/Queens League. Competition began in mid-October and will last for sixteen weeks. After five weeks of competition, the varsity team is in first place and the junior varsity team is in third place. Only five people out of the eight individuals can bowl each Tuesday. Each team bowls two games in order to accumulate points.

At the end of the season the league has their own dinner at which the top three teams are awarded trophies. There are also individual trophies for members who bowled a high score throughout the season.

Swimmers Open Season

by Jimmy Cutrone

The swimming team opened up its season on November 24 at the St. Francis Relay Carnival. The 200-yard breaststroke relay of Jim MacKay, Jim Cutrone, Martin Maher and Tom McGlade took third place. The quartet of Martin Maher, Jim Carney, Sal Gentile and Mike Brown took

fourth place honors in the descending relay.

The team swims its dual meets at St. John's University, one every Wednesday until January 27, the date of the last meet against Xaverian.

A team schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the gym, and all students are encouraged to come out and support the team.

Basketball Team Hungry to Play

by Zena Baygin

Back from Belgium, the varsity basketball team hit American hoops once again by defeating Xavier by the score of 67-54 in their season opener on December 4.

In pre-season play, the Falcons defeated La Salle, Curtis and Cathedral. They seemed to be off to a fine start with their only defeats going to Canarsie and Power.

Veteran Coach Ray Nash has been drilling his troops for months in preparation for the 78-79 season. He has been coaching at Ford for 17 years and is currently president of the CHSAA.

Captain Tom Lowney (senior) is Mr. Nash's most serious competitor. A feisty 5'9" guard who was a starter last year, averaging over 12 points a game by shooting 55% from the floor, he will be joined on the backcourt by Tom Sina (junior) who saw considerable action last year. Our jumping jack, John Tracy, will be a major force of the Falcon's offensive and defensive attacks. Joining Tracy on the front line will be Robert Dadona (senior) and Joe Corso (junior).

When he finally acquires the needed confidence and aggressiveness, Dave Quinn should emerge as the top gun. According to Mr. Nash, "Being the first man off the bench, Quinn will see an awful lot of action. He is probably the best shooter, but must be consistent in order to jell as a complete player."

"The team still lacks experience, but we look like we have a lot of potential as far as playing together like this. We'll have a lot more help off the bench this year because a lot of the players are hungry to play," commented Tom Sina.

Rounding off the team are seniors Chris Mueller (forward) and Joe Ferrara (guard), juniors Tom Loverdi (forward), Rick Ferro (guard), Mike Courtney (guard), Chris Ryan (guard), Willie Howard (guard), Richie Kenny (guard) and Glen Thomas (guard).

Going either man-to-man or zone defense will depend on talent and game-by-game situations. "Hopefully, we'll get the opposing team to do what we want instead of us doing what they want," said Mr. Nash.

The Falcons don't have an

easy game this year. The whole CHSAA is tough, but not as strong as last year, which will be helpful. Anytime you lose 4-5 starters it can be rough, but we'll progress throughout the year and get as strong as we can.

Cheerleaders Set to Charm Fans

by Jorge Diaz

This year's cheerleading squad will begin their work for Ford's teams on December 4. The girls from last year's squad who are with the club again this year are the Co-captains of the group, Maria Rollo and Andrea Zatorski,

as well as Terry O'Donnell, Kathy Smith, Debbie Onesto, Michelle Thomas, Tajuna Sharpe and Phyllis Iacintino. The new-comers to this year's team are Denise Miller, Kim Visrandis, Gerralyn Verren-gio, Yvette Rosas, Sandy Morrisset, Maria Migliaccio,

Theresa Colarco and Francine Bellere. Zena Baygin and Elizabeth Ruis are alternate members.

Miss Fasano, the Coach of the Cheerleaders, who practices with the squad on Mondays and Wednesdays, had the following to say: "This year the girls hope to initiate a pompom routine, as well as various other new cheers. We should have a very good squad." Maria Rollo and Andrea Zatorski, when asked how difficult they considered the try-out sessions, remarked, "The try-outs are not at all difficult, but you need to possess coordination, strength, precision and a strong voice."

Terry O'Donnell and Kathy Smith observed of their co-captains that, "They are good leaders on the courts, and they try to be good friends both on and off the courts."



Hey, No. 1, where are your shorts?